

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 00293 141502Z

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAB-01 SY-05 A-01

CPR-01 DHA-02 /062 W

-----141509Z 043196 /65

O R 141435Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 363

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

UNCLAS PANAMA 0293

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PN, US

SUBJECT: PANAMA'S RESPONSE TO EMBASSY PROTEST ON JANUARY 9

REF: PANAMA 278

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DELIVERED RESPONSE TO EMBASSY JAN. 9  
PROTEST NOTE EVENING OF JAN. 13. EMBASSY'S INFORMAL TRANS-  
LATION OF PANAMANIAN NOTE (DREU-8/1048-6) FOLLOWS.

2. BEGIN QUOTE MR. AMBASSADOR:

I HAVE THE HONOR TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR EXCELLENCY'S  
NOTE NO. 3 OF JAN. 13, 1977, THROUGH WHICH YOU PROTEST CERTAIN  
ACTS WHICH, YOU ASSERT, SOME PANAMANIAN CITIZENS COMMITTED ON  
THE 9TH INSTANT DURING THE MARCH COMMEMORATIVE OF THE 9TH  
OF JANUARY OF 1964.

YOUR EXCELLENCY STATES THAT IN THE COURSE OF THAT MARCH  
ITS PARTICIPANTS PROFERRED PHRASES INSULTING TO YOUR COUNTRY  
AND THAT, MOREOVER, THEY BURNED A UNITED STATES FLAG; THAT  
THESE ACTS TOOK PLACE ON THE SITE OF THE OLD TIVOLI  
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 00293 141502Z

HOTEL, IN THE AREA OF THE ANCON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL,  
IN COCOLI AND ON CONTRACTOR'S HILL; THAT, DESPITE THE  
PROVOCATIONS OF PANAMANIAN CITIZENS, NO DAMAGE WAS  
INCURRED BY PROPERTY OR PERSON IN THE CANAL ZONE, AND  
THAT BOTH RESIDENTS AND AUTHORITIES OF THAT JURISDICTION  
RESTRAINED THEMSELVES NOTABLY IN THE FACE OF THESE  
EXASPERATING EVENTS.

I MUST TELL YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA SINCERELY REGRETS THE ILL-MANNERED ACTIONS SET FORTH BY YOUR EXCELLENCY IN YOUR NOTE, AND PARTICULARLY DISAPPROVES THE ACT OF DISRESPECT TO THE UNITED STATES FLAG, BECAUSE WE RESPECT THE FLAGS OF ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD AS SYMBOLS OF THEIR SOVEREIGN STATEHOOD, WHO MORAL SENSIBILITY IS WOUNDED BY SUCH OUTRAGES.

NOTWITHSTANDING THE ABOVE, I MUST TELL YOUR EXCELLENCY, FOR MY PART, THAT THANKS TO THE PRUDENCE EXERCISED DURING THESE EVENTS BY THE NATIONAL GUARD OF PANAMA, NO ACTS EVEN MORE REGRETTABLE OCCURRED. THE PANAMANIAN PEOPLE HAS LIVED IN CONSTANT TENSION SINCE THE HEROIC DEED OF 1964 AND WE ALREADY HAVE 13 YEARS OF WAITING AND DELAYS FOR THE DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT WHICH EXIST BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA DUE TO THE CONTINUED FORCE OF THE HAY-BUNAU-VARILLA TREATY AND THE CAPRICIOUS INTERPRETATION OF IT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ALL ALONG GIVEN TO THE CLAUSES OF THAT INSTRUMENT.

YOUR EXCELLENCY SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT TO KEEP THE PEACE ON A SENTIMENTAL DAY, IN WHICH THE MEMORY OF THE MARTYRS FALLEN IN DEFENSE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THE FATHERLAND IS HONORED, IS QUITE A DIFFICULT TASK, (ESPECIALLY) IF WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 00293 141502Z

THAT IT IS PRECISELY THE CURRENT COLONIAL SITUATION IN THAT TERRITORY WHICH EXACERBATES THE NATIONALISTIC FEELINGS OF OUR PEOPLE.

THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT, BRIG. GEN. OMAR TORRIJOS, HAS MAINTAINED A CLIMATE OF POLITICAL STABILITY AND PUBLIC ORDER THAT HAS MADE POSSIBLE THE EFFICIENT OPERATION OF THE CANAL AND THE SAFETY OF THE PERSONS WHO WORK FOR THE AGENCIES OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WHICH FUNCTIONS IN THE COLONIAL ENCLAVE, KNOWN AS THE CANAL ZONE, WHICH WE HOPE WILL SOON DISAPPEAR WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE NEW CANAL TREATY.

WE ARE ADVOCATES OF FOMENTING A CLIMATE OF UNDERSTANDING AND GOOD WILL WHICH MAKES POSSIBLE GOOD RELATIONS TO THE END OF SUCCESSFULLY TERMINATING THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE NEW TREATY AND WE ARE DISPOSED THAT THIS CLIMATE SHALL NOT BE AFFECTED BY LAST MINUTE

RECRIMINATIONS.

WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF PRUDENCE (CORDURA) WHICH  
ANIMATES THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA, THE COMPETENT PANAMA-  
MANIAN AUTHORITIES WILL CONTINUE THEIR CONSTRUCTIVE WORK  
WITH THE AUTHORITIES OF THE JURISDICTION OF THE CANAL  
ZONE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN INTACT THE GOOD RELATIONS  
WHICH EXIST AND WHICH SHOULD CONTINUE TO EXIST BETWEEN  
OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

WITH THE CERTAINTY THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH AN  
INCIDENT WE CAN OVERCOME, I WISH TO MAKE CLEAR TO  
YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT MY GOVERNMENT HAS THE WILL TO  
CONTINUE EFFORTS TO MAKE POSSIBLE A GOOD RELATIONSHIP  
WHICH MAY BRING (WITH IT) DAYS OF COMPREHENSION AND  
SINCERE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLES.

/AQUILINO BOYD" END QUOTE

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PAGE 04 PANAMA 00293 141502Z

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** PANAMA'S RESPONSE TO EMBASSY PROTEST ON JANUARY 9  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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